

SPECTACULAR BLAZE URNS COAL POCKETS WITH \$100,000 LOSS

Lumber Plants in Brooklyn
Also Are Damaged by
Four-Alarm Fire.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed thousands of tons of anthracite coal in the storage pockets of the O. Nelson Brothers Company, and the Gowanus Canal, south of Broadway avenue, Brooklyn, early today, started up the country for miles around and gave a score of engine companies and five fireboats a hard-fought battle. The loss will be \$100,000.

Before destroying the coal pockets, which were two hundred feet long and fifty feet high, the fire damaged the offices and plants of the Brooklyn Lumber Company and the Hudson Lumber Company, adjoining the coal yards. It started in one of the coal pockets and had gotten such a start by the time it was discovered by George Geraghty, night watchman for the lumber company, that Acting Chief O'Hara, who responded to the second alarm sent in by Deputy Chief Cummins, turned in two hours.

Mrs. Mary Moloney, fifty-one years old, her son, Arthur, day watchman at the coal company, and two young children escaped from their sleeping quarters over the coal office without harm. Fireman John J. Hickey of Engine Company No. 23, was attached to a hose when the water was turned on unexpectedly. He was thrown from his feet and so badly injured that he had to return to his quarters.

BABY DIES IN HER ARMS; SHE SWOONS IN STREET

Mother Who Took Sick Child Out
for Air in Night Is Found
Unconscious.

When her eleven-month-old daughter Evelyn, who had been ill for two weeks, seemed to be growing better early today, Mrs. Ella Morrow took the child in her arms and went to a house where the water was turned on unexpectedly. She was thrown from his feet and so badly injured that he had to return to his quarters.

With a street lamp she looked at the child's face and saw that the little one was dead, having expired in her arms as she descended to the street. Mrs. Morrow, worn out from making the child sleep during her illness, was prostrated by the shock and fell to the sidewalk unconscious. The body of the baby beneath her, was found by a policeman who called Dr. Boyce from Polytechnic hospital. The doctor revived the mother and she was assisted to her home. The body of the baby was also taken there.

The New Plays

'Sylvia Runs Away'
a Childish
Little Escapade

BY CHARLES DARNTON.

I never a burglar was welcomed with open arms. It was the one who popped out from beneath a table at the Playhouse last night and gave "Sylvia Runs Away" a very late start in the right direction. Here at last was a real character, one proud of the fact that he was the best eighteen-year-old burglar in the business, and when he made the mistake of hailing Sylvia's friend Sally as a crook he gave us a few minutes of genuine fun. The programme, I find at the midnight hour, gives no clue to the actor who proved a lifesaver, but it was either Elmer Booth or Sidney Macey who rescued us from the inanities of Robert Housum's farce labelled "The New American comedy."

That burglar was both a surprise and a "find." When he climbed into the play toward the end of the second act and Sally put him under cover in the belief that he was the young man who had planned to raise a burglar scare in order to get her out of the house, we were inclined to regard his appearance as only another of the many coincidences that had been the author's stock in trade. We were not prepared to see more of him, and it was his unexpected "I've come back!" to Sally that gave us our first lively interest in the otherwise silly and aimless proceedings. We were with him heart and hand when he overpowered the husky police sergeant and made his getaway in the uniform he had captured.

Except for this incident "Sylvia Runs Away" proved to be a childish little escapade of more value to a boarding-school for girls than a theatre for grown-up audiences. Once again we beheld a group of young men in need of ready money after a tussle with the stock market. These three suddenly made up their minds to become amateur detectives and hunt for Sylvia Deane, a Pittsburgh heiress who had run away because her mean old guardian had insisted on her marrying a perfectly horrid man. And—would you believe it?—Sylvia ran right into the house where the young men were planning to win the \$10,000 reward, because, you see, the butler's wife, who was conveniently missing, had been her nurse. The poor heiress asked to be taken in as a maid, and of course the butler was taken in completely. Then who should come along but Sylvia's dear friend Sally, who was looking for a fortune-teller's number and naturally got into the wrong house. And Sally was taken for Sylvia by the amateur sleuths, and that's the way it went until the burglar put the first breath of life into the play.

Up to this point the plot was sophomoric and the humor sophomoric. With the one honorable exception of the burglar, there was no characterisation, though Ned A. Sparks did manage by sheer force of his odd personality to be amusing. So little was made of the principal character that it would have been pardonable to ask with Shakespeare, "Who is Sylvia?" By all the laws of playwriting, she should have been built up. There was more of Sally, but the author did not succeed in making her anything. The feminine roles amounted to little more than two stray girls. Geraldine O'Brien played occasional protests as Sylvia, and Alice Brady had a very

pleasant time as Sally until she abruptly lapsed into the sentimental and amusingly or amusingly-prattled of the man who would come along some day and "understand" her. By another strange coincidence he was standing right there.

As this chap, Albert Brown didn't seem at all the same actor who scored a decided hit in the Spring as the excitable Frenchman in love with another Sylvia, whose charm wasn't apparent. He was altogether lacking in ease. The acting as a whole was noisy and artificial, so that one was grateful even for the measured up-lift of Mr. Sparks's dry tones.

After the burglar got away, explanations were made so clumsily and laboriously that Sylvia's three-act sprint seemed like the work of an amateur.



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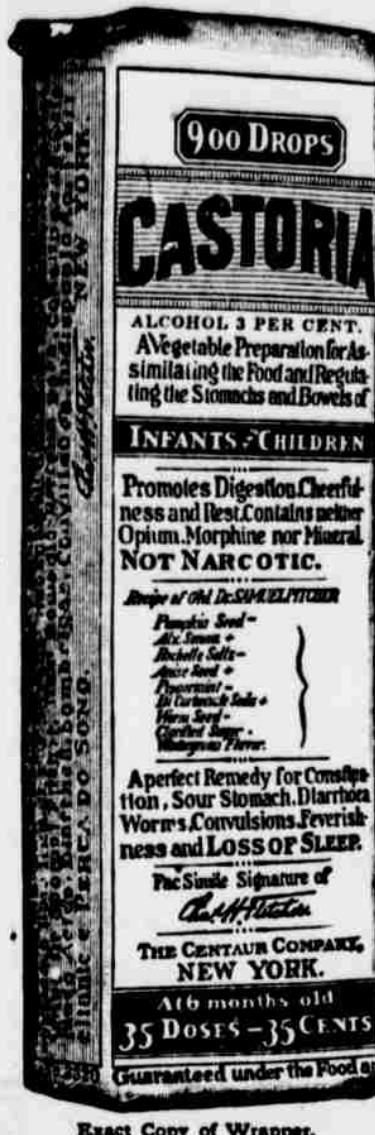
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